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ABSTRACT
OF THE
CONTENTS
Of Several
LETTERS
Relating to the
MANAGEMENT
OF
Affairs with Rome,
BY THE
D. of Y. and Others.

Published for Satisfaction of the People, with a Preface. Shewing
our present Dangers, and the Authors thereof. By a *Protestant*.

To all Protestant English.

YOU cannot think it possible without a Miracle, that the
bottom of this execrable Popish Plot, contrived and carried
on at this time, under the Umbrage and Countenance of
many of our Grandees, *Favorers* and Professors of the Popish Reli-
gion, for Murdering the King, and Subversion of our Religion and
Government, should appear to the World under the Hand Writing
of the Conspirators, seeing the power and influence they had upon
the Government, when Mr. *Oates* offered his first Information of
the Plot, gave them confidence, it may be not without Reason,
to assure themselves, notwithstanding such Discovery, to be safe
under the Accusation, and certain of accomplishing their Designs,
and

and thereby the Conspirators being at the first handled gently, had opportunity and were helped to convey away their Papers and Letters, which had they ever appeared in view, would have told the whole matter beyond contradiction. And had not *Coleman* by a strange confidence and infatuation, left in his House some Papers not valued by him (though yet containing enough to demonstrate the Bulk of the Design) we had had but very little of it under the Plotters hands, but those Letters and Papers containing transactions past Three Years since, did not so fully make out the Design, as the later Letters and Papers would (without doubt) have done which by the vigilance of our Enemies, and the Treachery of our pretended Friends have been concealed burnt and destroyed.

The Abstract of some of those Letters that escaped are here presented to publick view, whereby it will appear to all Protestants, who have been our greatest Bosom Enemies in Conjunction with *Rome* for our Destruction, and what power and influence *Rome* had over the Councils of this Nation, most of the Persons therein mentioned, being well known to be great Zelots in the Romish Superstition, and one of them the very occasion of the Plot, which the late House of Commons hath in a Vote for that purpose, grounded upon undeniable Evidence and Demonstration it self, worthily and truly signified to the Nation.

Can any Man in his wits, but apprehend from what springs flow, the present hopes the Papists have of playing an after game, and replanting their Superstition once more in this Kingdom? Are not all their hopes in a Popish Successor, who is come lately from beyond the Seas, with a mind we fear, as little Agreeable to the temper as the Religion of the English Nation?

All that you have is now at stake, a King that is an Idolater makes his people like himself (as the many Examples in the Old Testament will sufficiently illustrate) so that whosoever is for a Popish King, let their pretences be never so specious is for Popery. And the Idolatry (which some miscall Religion) now exercised by the Papists, much worse then that practised in old *Rome*, and the Laws of the Realm (whereby our liberties and properties are fenced and maintained) are inconsistent; the same hour your Religion is altered (which a Popish King (if ever God shall be pleased to punish us with such) will certainly effect) the same day the whole Law will be destroyed, and the English Nation will be reduced thereby to absolute slavery, under the most malicious Enemy it hath, furnished with a revengeful mind, which nothing but Slavery, Ruin, and an Ocean of English Blood can satisfy.

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It may be at present his pretences may be modest, though his own party gives out, he intends to make a Bargain with the People by turning Protestant, if the hard hearted Hereticks will accept thereof for all they have, but my dear Country-men, you may not relye upon such Counterfeit Jesuitical shams, in case he should renounce his Idolatry, upon peril of loosing your selves, Religion and Estates, you can have no assurance that this turn is real, and be assured it is all Imposture and Juggle, which the Tenets of the Romish Superstition, do not only allow, but command him to Act for the advancement of the Holy Church, do but reflect upon his present Carriage and the Carriages of his Accomplices in ridiculing the Plot, and slandering and contemning the Discoveries and Evidences thereof. And then you can never be seduced to imagine he Acts a Protestant, with any other design then the intire ruin of your Religion and Government.

All his fine Speeches and promises are to be lookt upon as nothing, you know 'tis an established Doctrine in one of their Councils, That Faith is not to be kept with Hereticks, And such he esteems you.

I have heard that 'tis as Common as Dispensations from the Pope, that the Serpent allwayes before he Drinks, Vomits up his Poyson, and when he hath Drank his Fill, ticks it up again, so it's possible may the D. his Idolatry, till he and his Accomplices may be in a capacity to Drink the Blood of the Protestants at will and pleasure.

Call to mind the Story of Queen *Mary*, who did not without our D. hate the Nation, how she perswaded our Fore-Fathers, and especially the *Suffolk*-men to Fight for Her, under many promises, and assurances, that She would establish them in their Protestant Religion, but She having obtained her end, and got into the Throne by their Assistance, She Burnt more Protestants of *Suffolk*, then of any other County in *England*.

Therefore if you believe like men or Christians, acquit your selves like men for the Glory of God, the safety of the Kings Person, and the benefit of your selves and posterity in opposing such designs (of which (if effected) will render you of all men most miserable.)

By his Letter of the Fourth of *January* 1676.

Cardinal of Nor-
folk's Letter to
Mr. Coleman.

It appears Sir *Henry Tichborn* was a Messenger to *Rome*. He rejoyceth at the Prorogation ----- saith if the King would do well all would be well. Hopes to serve the Duke to good purpose.

In

In his Letter of the Eighth of *February* 1676. Saith he doth all he can to serve the Duke ---- Hath writ to Mr. *Haies* at his Brothers ----- moves that the Kings Ministers may joyn with the Popes Ministers about P. *Furstenburge*, and about the peace, and the Pope will send a Minister on purpose.

Mr. *Coleman* to
be asked who the
Messenger was

His Letter of *March* 1676. was signed Cardinal of *Norfolk*, was sent by an expreis that was to return with what his Master and Mistriss had to Communicate ----- this was a Letter of Credence.

In his Letter of *March* 14th. 1676. he orders Mr. *Laburne* his Auditor to write ---- understands the Duke received his ---- useth to direct his Letters to the Portugal Embassador for Mr. *Coleman*. Takes notice of *Plunket* having the Letter of Arch-bishop *Talbot* at *Rome* ---- offers his service to the Duke and all the Catholicks whether they will or no ---- saith *Talbot* is enough to spoil all ---- his constant custom is forging Letters ---- saith if the Duke make use of him he will much disgrace himself, and the cause and put the Catholicks in derision, which is the way to destroy them ---- which if then Cardinal *Norfolk* and his Confriers may shut up their Shops ---- If he had not taken care the *Match* had been broken off with the Dutches ---- that a Friend of his at *Paris* first set the Match on foot ---- saith he promoted the Match to serve the Duke and the Catholick Religion in *England*, and that he and his are in great Power with *Rome* and *Spain* ---- saith it will prejudice the Duke if he be partial ----- complains of want of Countenance from the King ---- proposeth a Barony to be got of the King for him to get Money for ----- proposeth the Duke may manage it ----- saith, it would be no *Scandala Magnata* though for a Catholick more then when Sir *Francis Radcliff* was in motion ---- takes notice the Pope is not satisfied with the Education of the Dukes Daughters. Despairs not of getting a Pension from *Rome* for the Dutcheffes Secretary.

In his Letter of the 24th. of *March* owns the Receipt of Letters of the 17th. and 20th. of *March*. Takes notice of the Dukes being advanced to the Catholick Religion to the Joy of the Pope, but by his of the 27th. fully compleated their Joy ---- hopes the Dutches will bring forth a Happy Roman Catholick.

This confirms
Mr. Oates.

In his Letter of the 20th of *June* rejoiceth, that the Dutches will write to the Pope, takes notice that there is and hath been Long a Bilhop for *England*. That they intend to send him with others when due time will be.

In his Letter of the 21th of *September* ----- We promise our selves, that he will do much for the Catholick Religion ----- That the Cardinal hath writ to the Duke and Dutches, and invites their Highnesses to write to the Pope ----- The Pope and the Cardinals joyce at the Dutcheses Delivery of a Daughter.

In his Letter of *April* the 18th 1676. takes notice that Sir *Henry Tichbourn* had Audience of the Pope. That there was a dispensation granted for the Dutcheses Marriage, which was delayed before, because the Pope was not fully satisfied of the Duke's being a Catholick ---- The Pope desires not the Duke to declare himself a Roman Catholick rashly and unadvisedly, but would have him not conform to the Church of *England*, --- wrote for 100000 Crowns to *Rome* for the Duke --- hopes in time to get a pension for the Dutcheses Secretary ---- Takes notice of one that called himself the Dukes Agent at *Rome*, supposed to be an Italian. He left a Letter at Cardinal *Barbarin's*. Cardinal *Norfolk* offers *John Laborn* to be the Dukes Agent, for that it's fit for him to have one, and that the Cardinal will supply what he cannot do, and desires it may be offer'd the Duke in his Name ---- Takes notice that he is now the Queens Servant ---- That he writ by Sir *Henry Tichborn* to the Duke and Dutches lately.

In his 16th of *May* 1676. saith, if the Duke or Dutches employ the Arch-bishop of *Dublin* it will confound their Affairs.

This Letter of the 5th of *September* 1676. takes notice that Cardinal *Norfolk* hath received Letters from the King and Duke, enjoyning his adherence to the *French* ---- Takes notice that he hath writ to the Lord *Arundel*, Mr. *Haies &c.* ---- That he hath refused Bishopricks from *France* and *Spain*. -

This Letter is signed *John Laborn*.

Laborns Letter
to Coleman.

In his Letter of *July* 10th. takes notice of the Popes receipt of the Dukes Letter, which made him shed Tears. That an answer will shortly be sent, though upon the matter it hath been done anticipatedly ---- makes great expressions of his esteem of the Duke.

In his Letter of *January* 1st 1678 --- saith the Dukes Letter

ter to the Pope, about the Marriage of his Daughter to the Prince of *Orange* hath been delivered — The Pope remains satisfied that the Duke was in no fault, but his intended answer will not touch that fault —

In his Letter of the 18th December 1677. takes notice, that the Duke of *Modena* intends a Voyage to *London* —

His Letter of the 28th of November, saith Mr. *Coni's* naming to Dutches *Lauderdale* Mr. *Colemans* Correspondent is much wondred at here —

In his Letter of the 20th of November, takes notice of a Brief sent to the Queen, from the Pope by an Irish-man, who delivered it to the Lady *Fingal* —

In his Letter of September 11th 1677. Cardinal *Norfolk* would know whether the Brief sent the Queen be received —

In his Letter of the 23th of June 1677. takes notice that the Brief to the Duke is in Cardinal *Norfolks* hands, and that nothing finer or fuller could be expected in that kind — that two pair of Beads were sent the Duke and Dutches, from the Pope, with ample Indulgences — It's desired some *English* priests may be with the Popes *Nuncio* at *Nineguen*.

In his Letter of July 24th. saith Mr. *G. R.* hath this day a Brief of the Pope in answer to the Letter of the Dukes —

Cardinal *Norfolk's* Letter of 27th. of July 1677. Takes notice of the Brief in Answer to the second Letter of his Royal Highness, prays God to grant this new correspondence a Blessing, whereof the whole Nation may experience happy effects —

In *Laborns* Letter of July 20th. nothing of Moment.

His Letter 16th of July, speaks of a Match for the Lady *Ann* with the Duke of *Florence* —

His Letter of the 9th of July, shews the design of *Rome* to remove *Plat*, and to set the Inquisition upon him — He hath writ more particularly to the Lord *Arundel*.

His Letter of June 25. saith *Plat* hath been so impertinent as to own himself a Protestant.

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In his Letter of *October 1st* 1678. nothing material.

In his Letter *May 29th.* acquaints him with the Miscarriage of the Duke's Letter to the Pope, sent by *Con* with a Brief, will be sent to the Duke by Mr. *Thomas Howard* — The Duke's Letter was delivered to the Popes *Nuncio* in *France*.

In his Letter of *August 6th.* owns the Receipt of a Letter from the Lord *Arundel*.

In his Letter of *August 20.* nothing Material.

His Letter of *August 17th.* saith the Duke's Letter to the Pope miscarried, desires a Duplicate to supply it.

In his Letter of *April 30th.* the Lord *Arundel* is writ to, to get *Plat* out —

His Letter of *August 13.* saith the Duke of *Florence* is acquainted with what the Lord *Arundel* and *Coleman* writ about, *Plat* takes it kindly.

There are many other Letters of much greater Moment, which were never Abstracted, that we cannot yet come to the sight of, being among other pafs seal'd up, and in the Custody of the late secret Committee of the House of Commons, and are not to be opened until the next Parliament.